He was the 1953 "Man of the Year," selected and cited by the Advertising Club of Baltimore, and was awarded that year's citation of the National Conference of Christians and Jews for his accomplishments in the interests of Brotherhood and "an enduring democracy." He also received the 1954 Annual Award of the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs; the citation of the Massachusetts Committee of Catholics, Protestants and Jews; the Houston Jewish Community Council Plaque; and the DeMolay Legion of Honor Medal.

At the Republican National Convention of 1952 in Chicago, he delivered the address that placed the name of General Dwight D. Eisenhower in nomination for President of the United States.

He was Chairman of the Rules Committee for the 1956 Republican National Convention in San Francisco, and was Chairman of the Nationalities Committee in the Republican Campaign of that year. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Governors' Conference.

A lifelong Republican, Governor McKeldin's first public position was that of Secretary to Mayor William F. Broening of Baltimore. From 1943 to 1947, he was Mayor of Baltimore, and was elected Governor of Maryland in 1950 by the largest majority ever given any candidate for that office. He was reelected in 1954—the first member of his party ever to win a second gubernatorial term.

As Mayor of Baltimore, he was responsible for many governmental reforms and improvements, including the revision and modernization of the then antiquated City Charter. Important projects of the improvement of the city's physical plant also were launched during his administration, including the great Friendship International Airport, the big Patapsco River addition to the water supply system, the new tuberculosis wing at the City Hospitals, the Civic Center in the City Hall area which includes the new People's Court, widespread health center and school construction. He also inaugurated the Baltimore Plan of slum clearance, which has attracted considerable attention throughout the world.

His first term in the Governorship was highlighted by inauguration of a long-range program for complete modernization and extension of the Maryland highway system; the authorization and planning of new State Office Buildings for Baltimore and Annapolis, now under construction; replacement of the antiquated State budget methods with the modern program system of appropriations; reforms in purchasing, accounting, and control; comprehensive and systematic salary increases for public school teachers; expansion of the State system of hospitals; inauguration of advanced methods of treatment for mental illnesses, tuberculosis, and chronic ailments; beginning of a group of clinics for alcoholism; adoption of Home Rule for municipalities; planning and financing for the Baltimore